



ABCMouse Supports Research-Based Best Practices in Early Childhood Education

Best Practice,
Based on Research

Print-Related and Linguistic Processing Skills

From the ages of 3 to 5, children should be increasing their mastery of print-related skills and linguistic processing skills.

Research/Source: Center for Early Literacy Learning
Framework for Developing Evidence-Based Early Literacy Learning Practices

http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellpapers/cellpapers_v1_n1.pdf

Literacy

Literacy-related skills develop when children are provided with literacy-rich experiences, a variety of instructional practices, and interest-based activities.

Research/Source: Center for Early Literacy Learning
Framework for Developing Evidence-Based Early Literacy Learning Practices

http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellpapers/cellpapers_v1_n1.pdf

How ABCmouse Supports This Practice

Children learn the sequence of the alphabet, learn to recognize and identify both uppercase and lowercase letters, and learn the most common sounds of each letter.

ABCMouse books and book apps familiarize children with cover and title page elements, page turning, top-to-bottom and left-to-right text sequence, and the relationship of text to pictures.

Children are provided with ongoing practice and feedback related to print and linguistic processing skills through each reading-related activity.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Zoo Letter Line Game
- Market Letter Line Game
- Zoo Alphabet Pop and Peek Game
- ABC Alphabet Song
- Basics Letter A Book
- ABC's on the Farm Book
- ABC Blocks Uppercase Letters Puzzle
- Grocery Grabber Game
- Rhyming Words Jigsaws
- Alphabet Sounds at the Market Game
- All site books and book apps

Children are introduced to new vocabulary and exposed to rich language through a large variety of high-interest activities. These activities include fiction and nonfiction books, songs, the Shopping Mall, and more, with text accompanying oral language in virtually all cases.

ABCMouse uses imitation, modeling, and explicit and implicit instruction to ensure that each child's learning-style preferences are accommodated.

Children have access to many different types of Learning Activities that teach a very wide range of topics in ways that enhance involvement, curiosity, interest, engagement, and personal connections.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Sounds on the Farm Game
- Alphabet Sounds at the Market Game
- Grocery Grabber Game
- The Sound of Letter A Song
- The Cat and the Rat Book
- Rhyming Words Jigsaws
- Basics Word Family Review
- Magic Rainbow Traceables
- How Plants Grow: Vegetables Puzzle
- Sports Alphabet Memory Match Game
- The Four Seasons Song
- Zoo Animal Wheel Game

Nursery Rhymes

Having knowledge of and experience with nursery rhymes determines children's literacy abilities in the future.

Research/Source: Center for Early Literacy Learning

Relationship Between Young Children's Nursery Rhyme Experiences and Knowledge and Phonological and Print-Related Abilities

http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/cellreviews_v4_n1.pdf

School Readiness

The first goal of the eight National Education Goals for the U.S. is that all children will start school ready to learn.

School readiness in children includes: physical well-being and motor development; social and emotional development; approaches to learning, language development, and cognition; and general knowledge.

Research/Source: Child Trends Research Brief

School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children

<https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/schoolreadiness.pdf>

Nursery rhymes are provided in both illustrated book and song formats on ABCmouse.

Children are given a clear explanation of a rhyme and provided with specific examples from common nursery rhymes.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Old King Cole Book
- Hickory Dickory Dock Book
- Pat-a-Cake Book
- Little Boy Blue Book
- One, Two, Buckle My Shoe Book
- Old King Cole Song
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Song
- Itsy, Bitsy Spider Song
- Rock-a-Bye Baby Song
- I'm a Little Teapot Song
- This Old Man Song

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Emergent Literacy Skills

Emergent literacy skills are a good predictor of children's reading abilities throughout their educational careers. Exposure to literacy activities early in life, both at home and in early childhood care and education programs, is essential to the development of these skills.

Research/Source: Child Trends Research Brief

School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children

<https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/schoolreadiness.pdf>

Access to Books

Access to books and printed materials and being read to one-on-one or in small groups in early childhood care programs also help prepare preschoolers to become readers.

Research/Source: Child Trends Research Brief

School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children

<https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/schoolreadiness.pdf>

Research/Source: The Albert Shanker Institute

Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers

<http://www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/preschool-curriculum>

ABCMouse interactive activities have learning objectives that target the development of phonological and phonemic awareness, knowledge of sight words, knowledge of word families, phonics-based decoding of CVC words, and the development of oral vocabulary.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Impala Sentence Puzzle
- Word Family Jigsaw
- Swing with the Monkeys Game
- Flyswatter Madness Game
- The ABC Chants
- My Family and Me Book
- Alphabet Coloring: V Is for Violin
- First Letter in Line Game
- Last Letter in Line Game

Children, teachers, and caregivers have unlimited access to ABCmouse books, which children may read independently or have read aloud to them. These books have features that support and develop the concept of print skills, with exposure to such elements as a front and back cover, title page, and page numbers, in addition to the highlighting of text that tracks with voiceover, illustrations, and the ability to turn pages.

Children are exposed to a variety of book genres, including poems, fables, folktales, other fiction stories, nonfiction, and more.

The site is a print-rich environment.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Alphabet in the Park Book
- A Tasty Alphabet Book
- Big Pig and Little Pig Book
- Stanley the Snail Leaves a Trail Book
- Fun Poems for Kids Book
- The Tortoise and the Hare Book
- From Cow to Carton Book

Oral Language

Oral language is the primary means through which children gain knowledge about the world, and it is the vital foundation for children's literacy development. Oral language is the foundation for children's learning, and the pre-k years are a crucial time for language development.

Research/Source: The Albert Shanker Institute

Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers

<http://www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/preschool-curriculum>

Hands-On Mathematics

Children's achievement in mathematics at the start of kindergarten is a strong predictor of their academic success.

Children's mathematical knowledge is deepened when teachers actively connect concepts from books to hands-on mathematics activities so that children can apply and practice what they have learned.

Research/Source: The Albert Shanker Institute

Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers

<http://www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/preschool-curriculum>

Children are introduced to books with new vocabulary words that are supported by brief explanations and visual elements and modeled appropriately within sentences.

Hundreds of books and songs offer rich vocabulary experiences; accompanying glossaries provide clear and engaging child-friendly explanations of meanings, with illustrations and usage examples.

Virtually every page and activity on the site has accompanying oral explanations, and correlation between oral language and visual content supports understanding.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- All About Monkeys Book
- Circles Everywhere Book
- All About Planets Book
- I Want to Play an Instrument! Book
- Rhyming Words Jigsaw
- Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Game
- The ABC Chants

Children are introduced to foundational mathematics concepts in geometry, measurement, patterning, algebra, and numbers and operations, through games, songs, books, puzzles, and art.

Mathematical concepts are presented using child-friendly language while also incorporating important and necessary mathematical nomenclature.

ABCMouse introduces important mathematical concepts through short stories, and children are provided with opportunities to practice new concepts using related games, art activities, and songs.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Triangles Everywhere Book
- Triangle Jigsaw
- Shapes at the Zoo: Triangles Game
- Picture the Triangles: Trees Art Activity
- Shapes at the Market: Triangles Game

Science

Children gain a firm grasp on new knowledge, skills, and vocabulary when teachers facilitate a variety of experiences that relate to the same broad science concept.

In-depth science studies that integrate oral language, literacy, and mathematics provide meaningful and coherent learning experiences for young children.

Research/Source: The Albert Shanker Institute

Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers

<http://www.shankerinstitute.org/resource/preschool-curriculum>

Integrated Math and Science

Mathematics and science learning should be integrated with each other and with other content domains.

Research/Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice

<http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/20.pdf>

The ABCmouse nonfiction collection addresses topics in the areas of physical sciences, life sciences, and earth sciences.

Nonfiction science books are extensively illustrated with photographs that help students clearly see real-world connections to the concepts that are being explained.

The 18 Environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path (representing six biomes as well as the atmosphere and Solar System) offer rich opportunities for learning about the interrelations of plants, animals, and climate that characterize Earth's ecosystems.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Opposites All Around Book
- Shapes at the Market Game
- Wash! Brush! Comb! Book
- Your Body All Around Jigsaw
- How Plants Grow Book
- Weather Poetry Book
- Colors in the Mountains and Lakes Book
- Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments

Nonfiction and fiction books, songs, puzzles, and art activities that feature science and math content also develop literacy, problem-solving, and artistic skills.

Shapes and numbers are incorporated into hundreds of art activities and printables.

The Environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path illustrate and explicitly teach concepts and facts of life sciences and earth sciences. Many of the facts regarding the denizens of these environments are described with appropriate mathematical language.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- 1 to 10 in the Mountains and Lakes Book
- Mountains of Numbers Book
- Counting with Desert Friends Book
- Counting with Izzy Game
- Paint-By-Numbers: Rocket in the Sky
- Spring Jigsaw 2
- Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments

Science and Math Interactions

Science and math interactions support vocabulary development by exposing children to a variety of new words in meaningful contexts. Research suggests that exposure to uncommon vocabulary words predicts vocabulary development, which also predicts reading achievement, and that participation in sustained science experiences results in vocabulary gains for preschoolers.

Research/Source: National Institute for Early Education Research
Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice

<http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/20.pdf>

The extensive World Around Us collection of books offers new vocabulary in appropriate contexts. Vocabulary is reinforced through associated puzzles, games, and art activities.

Search and Explore books are interactive and provide children with repetitive exposure to new vocabulary words through a labeling/search activity at the end of the story.

Interactive Environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path present concepts and facts about hundreds of plants and animals, as well as climate-related information, with appropriate and rich vocabulary content.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- All About the Weather Book
- All About Elephants Book
- Let's Be Healthy Book
- Search and Explore: The Grand Canyon Book
- Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments

Mathematically Rich Environment

By providing an environment that is mathematically rich, teachers lay the foundation for their students' future success in learning school mathematics.

Curriculum should encourage thinking and reasoning about numbers but also support investigations into size, quantity, properties of objects, patterns, space, and measurement.

Research/Source: National Institute for Early Education Research
Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice

<http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/20.pdf>

Children are introduced to mathematical concepts through books, games, songs, puzzles, and art.

Learning Activities allow children to practice and explore mathematical concepts in these domains:

- Numbers
- Counting
- Addition and Subtraction
- Size and Quantity
- Patterns
- Shapes
- Measurement

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Number Line Mix-Up Game
- 1 to 10 in My Closet Book
- Dinosaur Chomp Game
- Plenty of Patterns Game
- Star Jigsaw

Multiple Systems

The more students use multiple systems of representing knowledge, the better they are able to think about and recall what they have learned.

Research/Source: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED450096>

Games and Modeling Activities

Games and modeling activities can elicit curiosity, create a demand for knowledge, and enable students to discover knowledge through exploration. Games have been found to serve a range of functions in education, including in tutoring, exploring, and practicing skills and attitude changes.

Research/Source: Northwest Educational Technology Consortium
Instructional Gaming: Implications for Instructional Technology

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED368345.pdf>

The more students use multiple systems of representing knowledge, the better they are able to think about and recall what they have learned.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Basic Shapes: Square
- Squares Everywhere Book
- Square Jigsaw
- Magic Rainbow Traceable: Square 8
- Paint and Decorate the Square Art Activity
- Shapes at the Market: Squares Game 4

ABCMouse educational games help children practice and reinforce early literacy and math skills, provide opportunities to explore and investigate new concepts or topics that are intriguing, and help cultivate a positive attitude toward learning.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Number Line 15 Game
- Alphabet Wheel Game
- ABC's at the Zoo Game
- Farm Letter Line A–H Game

Written Language

It is essential to propose different methods to introduce young learners to written language before they begin their schooling. Because music education offers a holistic type of education that may facilitate the development of listening and analysis abilities, it can be used as an efficient complementary educational approach.

Research/Source: Early Childhood Research and Practice
The Effects of Music Instruction on Emergent Literacy Capacities Among Preschool Children: A Literature Review

<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n1/bolduc.html>

Both familiar and original songs enhance the understanding of science concepts, colors, letters, sounds, shapes, and holidays:

- “Bouncing ball” lyrics help children relate oral to written language.
- Each song offers an illustrated glossary in child-friendly language with examples of usage.
- Letter Songs A to Z music videos help children relate oral to written language through high-interest repetition.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- The Wheels on the Bus Song
- If You’re Happy and You Know It Song
- ABC Alphabet Song
- Letter Songs A to Z Music Videos

Musical Activities

Musical activities promote the development of auditory perception, phonological memory, and metacognitive knowledge—three components that are equally involved in the development of linguistic abilities.

Research/Source: Early Childhood Research and Practice
The Effects of Music Instruction on Emergent Literacy Capacities Among Preschool Children: A Literature Review

<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n1/bolduc.html>

The many original and classic children’s songs on ABCmouse have been produced with high production values; rich arrangements embodying a wide range of music genres; and engaging melodies, rhythms, and lyrics that invite singing and dancing along.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- The Classroom Is the Place to Be Song
- I’m a Little Teapot Song
- The Sound of Letter A Song
- The Letter G Song
- Where Do the Rainbows Go? Song
- The Four Seasons Song

Systematic Phonics

There are substantial and consistent advantages for programs that include systematic phonics, as measured by outcomes on word recognition, spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, at least through the third grade. There is also the need to provide children with practice in reading that will generate reading fluency, and there is value in providing challenging reading material, in addition to texts that enable children to practice the skills that they acquire.

Research/Source: National Academies Press

Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children:
Catherine E. Snow, M. Susan Burns, and Peg Griffin

http://www.nap.edu/openbook.p hp?record_id=6023&page=R1

ABCMouse.com offers hundreds of Learning Activities whose objectives are related to phonics learning. Objectives and strategies include:

- Phonological and phonemic awareness
- Identification and recognition of letter names
- Implicit phonics instruction, with many examples of words that illustrate sounds of the letters being taught
- Explicit phonics instruction that teaches the most common sounds of each alphabet letter
- Word families
- CVC decoding

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- Animals of Africa Cutout Puzzle
- All About Animals: Lions Book
- Alphabet Zoo Jigsaw: Lions
- Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Game
- Alphabet Painting: A Is for Alligator
- Swing with the Monkeys Game
- Alphabet Zoo Jigsaw: Gorillas
- Zoo Animal Matching Game
- All About Gorillas Book
- Paint-By-Numbers: Giraffe

Predictions and Cues

By perusing patterned and predictable books, children learn how to use predictions and picture cues to augment or reinforce the text, even as they develop basic book-handling habits.

Research/Source: National Academies Press

Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children:
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Many of the books, stories, poems, and songs on ABCmouse are predictable forms of text.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- A to Z at the Market Book
- Zoo Animals A–Z Book
- Letter Songs
- Letter Chants

Decoding

There is no need to wait until a child knows all the letters of the alphabet to start explicit instruction in decoding; knowledge of the sound value of a few consonants and vowels may be enough on which to build phonemic awareness and initial word-reading instruction.

Research/Source: National Academies Press

Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children:
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http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=6023&page=R1

Support Vocabulary Learning

There are four ways a teacher can support young children's vocabulary learning:

1. Provide purposeful exposure to new words.
2. Intentionally teach word meanings.
3. Teach word-learning strategies.
4. Offer opportunities to use newly learned words.

Research/Source: Young Children, NAEYC

Bridging the Vocabulary Gap: What the Research Tells Us
About Vocabulary Instruction in Early Childhood

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234742213_Bridging_the_Vocabulary_Gap_What_the_Research_Tells_Us_about_Vocabulary_Instruction_in_Early_Childhood

Children are taught decoding strategies through gaining exposure and familiarity with word families, listening to how words are broken into syllables, letter-sound activities, and beginning and ending sound activities.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- To Run Is Fun Book
- Word Family Memory Match Game
- The Sound of Letter C Song
- Alphabet Sounds at the Market Game
- Big Bug and Little Bug Game
- Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Game

Choice of vocabulary in fiction and nonfiction books and songs is intentional so that children have rich language experiences that contextualize new vocabulary words to support comprehension.

The site's glossary of nearly a thousand words offers explanations of word meanings in child-friendly language, with illustrations and examples of usage.

The site's Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments, Zoo, Farm, and Shopping Mall all offer rich language experiences.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- The Grasshopper and the Ants Book
- Words Have Families Too Book
- Ostrich Egg Hatcher Game
- Paint-By-Sight-Words

Electronic Texts

Best Practice,
Based on Research

Electronic texts and read-aloud books on DVD can be motivating and effective when they call for children to actively engage with the words.

Research/Source: Young Children, NAEYC

Bridging the Vocabulary Gap: What the Research Tells Us About Vocabulary Instruction in Early Childhood

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234742213_Bridging_the_Vocabulary_Gap_What_the_Research_Tells_Us_about_Vocabulary_Instruction_in_Early_Childhood

How ABCmouse Supports This Practice

Books are accompanied by related activities in which students engage with words in a variety of modes—in games, songs, puzzles, and art activities.

Specific ABCmouse Activities

- 30 Days Until Ellen's Birthday Book
- Birthday Candles Painting
- Paint-By-Letters: Birthday Candles
- Sight Words: Set 8 Book
- Shrimps in Sight Game